THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The All India MES Clerical Cadre Association representing clerks and Class IV employees of the Military Engineering Service, an unrecognised Association, served a notice for Chain Hunger Strike from 15th March, 1993 to 21st March, 1993 and a pendown strike from 22nd March, 1993 to 31st March, 1993 in all the offices of MES throughout the country. Certain employees observed Chain Hunger Strike from 15th March, 1993. Employees belonging to the Association including Group 'D' numbering approximately 4,000 went on pen-down strike from 22nd March, 1993 to 31st March, 1993. The strike was mostly confined to Western and Northern Army Commands. The strike was called off on 31st March, 1993.

The main demands raised by the Association during the strike were as follows :

(i) Expeditious finalisation of clerical cadre-review proposals.

(ii) Review of posting policy of clerical personnel.

(iii) Creation of posts of Administrative Officers in Garrison Engineers' Offices.

(iv) Recognition of the Association.

(v) Speedy implementation of Career advancement of Group 'C' and 'D' employees.

Government had held discussions with the representatives of the Association, on earlier occasions, in order to find an amicable settlement of the various issues. In this regard, Government have already taken steps to implement certain demands, namely grant of in situ promotions to Group 'C' and 'D' employees, and initiated a review of present posting policy of clerical personnel.

As regards the creation of posts of Administrative Officer in Garrison Engineers' Offices, Government have not found it feasible to accept the demands, as there is already an Assistant Garrison Engineer posted in GE's Offices who is assisting the Garrison Engineering in day-to-day administration, in addition to technical work. The Association has also been suitably apprised of the position.

In regard to the recognition of the Association, certain pre-conditions laid down in the guidelines in respect of the recognition of service associations had not been complied with by the Association. The Association has been advised to fulfil the pre-conditions.

In the matter of Cadre review proposals, finalisation is awaiting identification of 10 percent posts for surrender, under the economy drive of the Government of India. The Association have since been apprised of the position.

All India Transfer Liability Conditions

434. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Group 'C' posts of DGQA Organisation possess "All India Transfer Liability Condition" like that of Group 'A' and 'B' posts of the same organisation in view of provision to Article 309 of the Constitution and the Government's statement made before the C. A. T., Calcutta as reported in ATR 1989(2) CAT 124; and

(b) if not, then whether a clause relating to all India transfer liability incorporated in the offers of appointments is enforceable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) An all India transfer|service liability clause is incorporated in the offers of appointment to all group 'C' posts of DGQA. That has been held as justified by CAT Bangalore, in their judgment dated 26 November 1991 on application No. 415|91 filed by a group 'C' employee of DGQA as an "incidence of service".

The judgment of CAT Calcutta reported in ATR 1989(2) CAT 124 is not relevant in this matter. It pertains to the office of All India Radio, Port Blair and only holds that grant of special (duty) allowance payable to employees having all India transfer liability while posted in certain parts of the country could not be denied to any employee on the ground that such transfer liability had not, in fact, been enforced.

Appointment on compassionate grounds

435. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the dependent of some of the class IV employees of Ministry of Defence who died in harness in 1971 have not been provided with compassionate appointments so far;

(b) if so, what are the details of each such case alongwith the reasons for the delay; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to finalise the compassionate appointments in each case and by when the appointments would be given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The various Service Headquarters| Inter Service Organisations under the control of this Ministry and their subordinate offices consider compassionate appointments cases at their level at periodic intervals. No centralised tally is maintained in the Ministry.

(c) Action is taken in such cases in accordance with the guidelines issued by DOP&T from time to time and with their specific concurrence wherever necessary.

Shortage of Manpower in the Computer Industry

436. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the computer industry in the country is likely to face shortage of manpowers during the period of Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what would be the likely shortage;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the training provided by the educational institutions is not adequate as per needs of the industry; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to improve training facilities on computers in the educational institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The requirements of computer manpower, particularly, in the software sector were recently reviewed in a study conducted with the assistance of World Bank. The study brought out the need to upgrade computer education, particularly, with reference to new technologies like Client|Server Architecture, CASE tools. Object Oriented technology and Relational Data Base technology. A two pronged strategy is being adopted in this context, namely, to up-grade the Master of Computer Application (MCA) syllabus under a Committee set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and to the set up a number of Centres of Excellence in the area of Software Engineering under the aegis of the Software Development Board.